

REMARKS

Claims 31, 33-51, 55, 57-62, and 65-75 are pending in this application, with all the claims except new Claims 72-75 having been allowed in the Notice of Allowance dated December 17, 2003. Claims 72-75 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 31, 47, 51, and 55, which are the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention.

Applicants submit that Claims 31, 47, 51, and 55, and their dependent claims (including new Claims 72-75), are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable further consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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